

4-29-1975

Correspondence, John C. Stennis, J. Stanley Pottinger, Robert D. Gage, April 29-May 21, 1975

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See me

April 29, 1975

Honorable Stanley J. Pottinger
Attorney General for Civil Rights Division
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: 1975 primary and general elections in
Claiborne County, Mississippi



Dear Mr. Pottinger:

The 1975 Democratic primary election will be held on Tuesday, August 5, 1975, with the second primary or run-off election to be held on August 26, 1975. On November 5, 1975, the general election is to be held.

On behalf of the Claiborne County Democratic Party, I hereby request that your office provide observers or poll watchers for each precinct in Claiborne County for the above-mentioned elections. The reason for this request is the likelihood that in the absence of Federal observers, the voting rights of our citizens will not be protected but will be abused.

Please give me a response to this request as soon as possible.

Yours very truly,



CHAIRMAN, CLAIBORNE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RDG

cc: Honorable James O. Eastland
Honorable John C. Stennis ✓
Honorable Thad Cochran

JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS., CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 21, 1975

Honorable Stanley J. Pottinger
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division
Department of Justice
550 11th Street, Todd Building
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Pottinger:

Mr. Robert D. Gage, Chairman of the Claiborne County, Mississippi, Democratic Executive Committee, has recently written you requesting that you provide observers or poll-watchers for each precinct in Claiborne County for the Democratic primary elections and the general election this year.

Mr. Gage bases his request on the likelihood that, in the absence of Federal observers, the voting rights of the citizens will not be protected but will be abused. I am generally familiar with the details of this matter, having discussed the problem with Mr. Gage and several other substantial citizens of Claiborne County some weeks ago.

Based on the information which I have received, I believe that Mr. Gage's request is thoroughly justified under the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended. I, therefore, strongly urge that you respond favorably.

Sincerely,

JOHN C. STENNIS
United States Senator

JCS:kls